

Financial boost to further expand institutions infrastructure

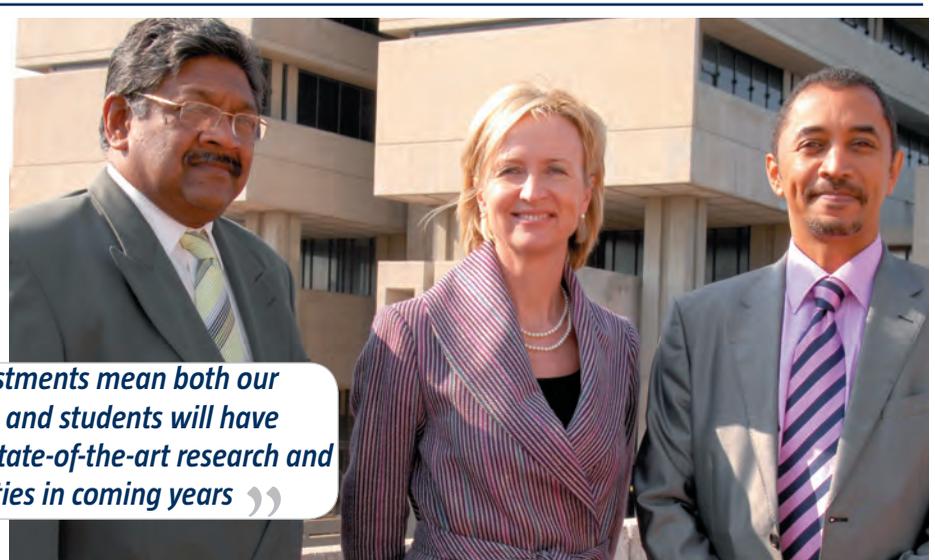
NMMU gets R131m boost

A R131-m boost from government will see NMMU further expand its infrastructure to meet the needs of its growing student body.

This figure will also be matched by a further R128.9m as a signal of the institution's commitment to the Department of Higher Education and Training to grow areas of national priority like engineering and education.

"We are incredibly pleased with this grant for major investments. With brand new facilities on our campuses, NMMU is gearing itself to offer high quality qualifications critically needed for the economy in South Africa," said Vice-Chancellor **Professor Derrick Swartz**.

These investments mean both our academics and students will have access to state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities in coming years



EXCEPTIONAL TEAM ... NMMU Chair of Council Judge Ronnie Pillay (left) and Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** welcome top businesswoman and MTN's marketing guru Santie Botha to the university as its dynamic new chancellor. See full story on page 3.

The three-year roll-out of the combined R259.9m will begin in October, though work on a new building to house a suite of high resolution transmission electron microscopes (HRTEM) that will bring Africa in line with its international nanoscience research counterparts is already underway.

The R27m high-tech HRTEM Centre on South Campus will be followed by the construction of a new block to meet the needs of engineering and built environment students. Some R64.6m will be spent on a modern integrated building for these students close to the faculty's present buildings on North Campus. The latter will also be upgraded to meet the anticipated increases in student numbers in these fields.

Since 2007 initial teacher education numbers at NMMU have ballooned by 17.7% per annum, while the number of students registering for programmes

in the built environment and pharmacy has grown by 11% and 4.2% each year over the same time period respectively.

Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande also approved funding that will enable the Faculty of Education to continue to grow its numbers.

Within the next few years, the faculty which has already outgrown its present site will expand to also take over the adjacent Human Movement Science (HMS) facilities, which coincidentally had originally been earmarked for education students.

The university's growing number of HMS and sport management students will then, in turn, move

into a new R32.2m purpose-built building close to the university's sporting facilities.

"These investments mean both our academics and students will have access to state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities in coming years," said Prof Swartz, who played a leading role in motivating for the funding.

He said furthermore NMMU science and pharmacy students will benefit from an injection of almost R100m for equipment and renovation of laboratories.

The university had been facing a replacement bill for laboratory equipment that was well beyond its means.

► **Next edition:** Innovation winners ► We learn about residence 'revamp' ► George upgrade

PARKING

2

New system on cards

CHANCELLOR

3

Meet the marketing ace

BUILDINGS

5

Missionvale's new library

DIVERSITY

10

Reason to celebrate

AS a knowledge production centre we focus on research, teaching and community service but we also need facilities to accommodate our services. Over the past few years building projects have steadily increased on our campuses and we are happy to see that even more are in the pipeline.

A further R131 million is being granted to us by government for infrastructure upgrading.

And this just after completion of the Missionvale library, the lifts in the main building have been upgraded and work on the high resolution transmission electron microscope centre has started, to name a few.

NMMU is at the forefront of HIV

All round good news

awareness being the first higher education institution in South Africa to be an accredited anti-retroviral site.

We will also host the largest HIV/Aids conference in Africa next year.

Meanwhile, a number of staff and students stayed on campus during recess to make a difference to a number of learners and prospective students attending activities at NMMU.

These included the inspiring Science Discovery Week, engineering and language and life skills winter

schools, and the Minquiz and engineering design competitions.

And to top of it all we have a new ceremonial head of our institution, MTN Group Marketing

Executive Director Santie Botha as our new Chancellor.

Enjoy reading about these and other stories.

Please don't forget to support the various Diversity activities in August and Casual Day on Friday 3 September.

Kind regards
Elma de Koker



Research: bays under-utilised with 200-plus empty New parking system

NMMU is investigating a new parking system from 2011 in order to alleviate many of the present parking frustrations.

The new colour-coded system which still needs to be approved at executive management level is aimed at making more parking available to more staff.

According to the results of an assumption based analysis of parking

usage on our five PE campuses, as many as 222 parking bays potentially are standing empty at any one time. This is due to staff having different working hours and commitments, being sick, on holiday, sabbatical, seminars and conferences.

With more staff than reserved parking bays available, better utilisation of available bays has become imperative.

As a result, staff will no longer have their own dedicated, numbered bay, but rather an allocated parking area coded according to colours.

These (with the number of bays presently available in brackets) are as follows:

- ▶ Green (928) – under-cover, reserved parking
- ▶ Orange (549) – open, reserved parking
- ▶ Blue (2306) – non-reserved open parking

Both the green and orange parking will have tariffs, while the blue bays will remain free as is all presently the case. The blue parking areas will also be open to students.

Introduction

If Emcom accepts the proposed solution to the present parking frustrations, it will be introduced from 2011. However, applications for the various

parking types will start this year.

Permanent staff who presently have under-cover reserved parking will be given first preference, followed by those with open, reserved parking. The new system means that more staff can benefit from allocated reserved parking.

"By oversubscribing the bays by about 20% to ensure that bays do not stand idle as is presently the case, we know that we will be able to please

We've done our sums and are confident that this will work

more staff, this will be reviewed and adjusted as the need demands" explained Projects and Plannings' deputy-director **Graham Gouws**.

He said his team had followed a lengthy, detailed process in seeking the best possible solution to the present frustrations raised by staff.

"We've done our sums and are confident that this will work. What's more, the waiting lists for parking will also disappear as the current demand for reserved parking bays will be met by the new system."

His department received as many as 20 complaints a day from dissatisfied staff, many of whom ranted about unused bays.

Briefs

Sport Science paper

SPORT Director Dr **Richard Stretch** recently presented a paper on "Injury patterns of South African international cricketers over a two season period" at the 15th Annual Conference of the European College of Sport Science in Antalya, Turkey. The paper was co-authored by Human Movement Science's **Ryan Raffan**. The conference attracted more than 1 800 delegates.

International member

PHYSICS' **Prof Jan Neethling** has been invited to become a member of the International Advisory Committee and present a paper at the 5th International Conference on High Temperature Reactor Technology 2010 in Prague, Czech Republic.

National member

EDUCATION Dean **Prof Denise Zinn** has been appointed to serve on Umalusi, the quality assurer in the general and further education and training bands of the national qualifications framework (NQF).

Example of Ubuntu

UBUNTU is alive and well at NMMU. That's the verdict of a relieved staff member whose mislaid diary was returned to her last month. "What that student did is a perfect example of *ubuntu*. I want to thank whoever you are," said Social Development Professions' **Prof Tobeka Mashhologu-Kuse** whose diary was handed in at the information kiosk on South Campus.

World conference

Prof Ilse Truter of the Pharmacy Department's Drug Utilisation Research Unit, presented a paper at the 16th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WorldPharma 2010) in Copenhagen, Denmark, in July. The conference was attended by more than 3000 pharmacologists.

Diary

August
Diversity Month

16 – 20 August
International Week

18 August
Guitar Studio Lunch
Hour Concert

21 August
Triversity, South
Campus

3 September
Casual Day

3 September
Staff Association
spring function

NMMU to host Africa's largest HIV/Aids conference

NMMU will host the largest HIV/Aids conference in Africa next year following a call by a leading research body to join hands with the university in fighting the scourge of Aids.

A Memorandum of Understanding between NMMU and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) will not only see the university co-host the biennial Social Aspects of

HIV/Aids Research Alliance (SAHARA) conference late in 2011, but also co-publish the quarterly journal of the same organisation.

Our DVC: Research and Engagement **Prof Thoko Mayekiso** will be *SAHARA J's* editor-in-chief while Arts Faculty Executive Dean **Prof Velile Notshulwana** will be the co-executive editor.

The partnership again highlights

the university's commitment to finding solution to the pandemic where 35% of people living with HIV are from southern Africa.

The conference from 29 November to 2 December is expected to attract more than 300 delegates which, according to HSRC director Prof Nancy Phaswana-Mafuya, will make it the largest of its kind on the continent.

"This partnership offers us a unique

opportunity to develop and nurture research expertise in the social aspects of HIV/Aids," Prof Mayekiso said at the signing of the five-year MoU in June.

The journal provides an outlet for the publication of research articles in French and English on all social aspects of HIV/Aids, including care, support, prevention and treatment, behavioural surveillance.

Active role for Santie in taking 'best branded' university to new levels

New generation chancellor for new generation NMMU

EVERYTHING is possible. That's the personal brand promise of NMMU's new chancellor Santie Botha.

And you'd better believe it.

She is, in short, a doer, and is relishing the challenge of NMMU.

"I am excited about assisting the leadership of NMMU in taking this university to new levels," she says, adding that she'd been impressed by what she'd seen and who she'd met during a visit to the city earlier this month.

Executive management is equally pleased with her appointment, knowing full well that Ms Botha's connections, insight and enthusiasm will greatly benefit NMMU.

"Santie's exposure as a corporate leader in a highly cosmopolitan, globally-linked and multicultural industry will be invaluable to NMMU's own strategic interests going forward," says Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**.

As executive director of group marketing for MTN, Ms Botha deals with a potential customer base of 500 million in Africa and even greater numbers as the company is also present in the Middle Eastern market.

NMMU will be completely "left field" for Ms Botha, but it's this – "something so different" – that appealed to her.

This and being privy to the most iconic brand name in the business.

"You don't get a bigger or more iconic brand than Nelson Mandela. The equity around his name is unbe-

lievable. I hope I can help the university in elevating this."

Prior to joining MTN whose African brand has become globally recognisable, thanks in part to the success of the Fifa 2010 World Cup, Ms Botha pioneered the Absa brand success story.

She implemented a strategy that merged four retail bank brands with a brand equity of more than 400 years into the popular Absa brand.

If this isn't evidence enough to know that our new generation university has a new generation chancellor, then please note some of her accolades: Marketer of the Year, Top Ten Business People of the Year and Young Business person of the Year.

Oh yes, at 45 she is probably the youngest chancellor of any South African university too.

When Ms Botha isn't working (though she admits this isn't too often), she loves to run, read and travel. Her husband, Pierre, was a sugar farmer until three years ago but is now a futures trader.

"From fingers in the soil, to fingers

on the keyboard," quips Santie.

She's a mean tennis player too with many fond memories of her days

playing on the Sugar Circuit at the old Davies Stadium on the Port Elizabeth beachfront.

University chancellors' obligations rarely extend beyond capping students at graduation. Not Santie Botha, NMMU's dynamic new chancellor. She's a go-getter whose business and marketing acumen is set to greatly benefit our new generation university.

"I am excited about assisting the leadership of NMMU in taking this university to new levels"



MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... NMMU's new chancellor Santie Botha relaxes during a visit to the university earlier this month. The top businesswoman is executive director of group marketing for the cellular giant MTN.

95% of HIV-positive women discover status during ante-natal care Targeting teen pregnancy - HIV/Aids

“It is generally midwives who end up meeting the majority of young people with HIV/Aids. This provides a good opportunity for us to talk to them, assess their situation, and see what we can do,” said Sindiwe, head of midwifery in our Nursing Science Department.

Ultimately, she aims to empower a peer support group, where young mothers talk to fellow pupils about the risks of unprotected sex and the reality of becoming a parent while still at school – in the hopes that this will reduce both teenage pregnancy and HIV/Aids.

The 2007 National HIV and Syphilis Prevalence survey found an HIV prevalence rate of 28% among pregnant women. Among young women (aged 15 to 19), prevalence of HIV/Aids was 13%.

“It would make such a difference if teens could listen to people their own age sharing their personal experiences.”

James said her research – in which she has interviewed many young women – had uncovered several reasons for teen pregnancy, and had largely debunked the theory that teenagers deliberately fall pregnant to access government child grants.

“The teens say: ‘What is R200 a month? What can you buy with that?’”

For most of these girls, socio-economic factors played a key role in their pregnancies.

“Some fall pregnant because they are poor and want a ‘daddy’ to finance them – so they have unprotected sex with older men.”

Others said they were not aware they could fall pregnant so young, while some could not access clinics for contraceptives. “Either the clinic was closed when they visited after school, or they didn’t want to go in because they saw their aunt there, or a mother’s friend.

“What I’m trying to do is build the bigger picture around teenage pregnancy.” She also edu-

HER strong determination to play a role in limiting the spread of HIV/Aids in South Africa inspired Nursing Science lecturer and trained midwife Dr Sindiwe James to investigate teenage pregnancy – as an estimated 95 per cent of HIV-positive women discovered their status during ante-natal care.



It would make such a difference if teens could listen to people their own age sharing their personal experiences

The majority of South Africa’s HIV-positive youngsters are pregnant teenagers whose status was diagnosed during ante-natal care – which is why Nursing Science’s Dr Sindiwe James is addressing teen pregnancy to wage war on HIV/Aids.

cates teens about prevention of mother-to-child HIV/Aids transmission.

James is also conducting research into the emotional impact of becoming a teenage mother. “While it is accepted by law – the children are encouraged to stay in school – it seems as if this generally not accepted by the community, with the result that many drop out.

“Others find it very difficult to play a dual role of mother at night and school pupil during the day.”

For her PhD studies, completed in 2006, James interviewed pregnant Xhosa teenagers, their parents and grandparents, in order to assess the support given to these girls, and subsequently developed a

model to facilitate inter-generational reconciliation.

“Often, grandmothers have to facilitate the reconciliation process between furious parents and terrified children.”

Sindiwe herself is a single mother of two sons Thandolwethu, 26, and Makukanye, 16, and a daughter Sinazo, 9, so she can strongly relate to the young girls she interviews.

“I have also learned a lot from these girls. Most of them are so grateful to be given an opportunity to talk about how they feel.”

Her other research interest is post-natal assessment of women in KwaZakhele, a collaborative project with Manchester University.

“With critical staff shortages, there are not enough nurses or midwives conducting home visits, with the result that many women die from excessive bleeding after giving birth.”

Sindiwe is deeply passionate about her work. “I love it!” - NW.

We’re first to get ARV accreditation

OUR Campus Health Services is the first higher education institution in South Africa to become an accredited ARV (anti-retroviral) site.

According to national guidelines eligible staff and students will be able to receive anti-retroviral treatment at the on-campus clinics.

Deputy Director Campus Health Service **Sister Antoinette Goosen** said anyone currently on ARVs was encouraged to contact their nearest clinic and discuss transfer of their treatment with a professional nurse.

“Our aim is to provide holistic health care to all and this is just one more step in ensuring that

we achieve this,” she said.

This announcement follows the first comprehensive study of the epidemic in the higher education sector in South Africa to better understand the threat posed by HIV/Aids.

Though the HIV prevalence among students at NMMU is 1.8% - far lower than rates found in annual public HIV surveys - the university was always determined to play an even stronger role in fighting the disease.

“Only when the rate is 0% can we be satisfied,” says Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Engagement **Prof Thoko Mayekiso**.

Every month, talk@nmmu will focus on a particular individual, unit, support service or research project to grow our understanding and appreciation of the many facets of our university.

NMMU campus offers great facilities with many improvements

New library for Missionvale

THE opening of a state-of-the-art library at the Missionvale Campus this month is further evidence of the university's intention to meet the needs of both the students and society it serves.

The R38.5m "green" building is among the first buildings in the country to incorporate the digital address lighting interface (Dali) system which relies on sensors to control lighting levels.

It also uses carbon dioxide sensors to ensure that the ventilation system is energy efficient.

"It's one of the most advanced buildings of its kind in South Africa," director of planning and projects **Stuart Blignaut** said.

A further R50m is also being spent on upgrading infrastructure for the 53 programmes that will be running at the campus by 2012.

In short, Missionvale Campus will offer a multi-academic programme approach particularly in science, technology and education.

Work has already begun on a student centre, incorporating the former library, and an upgrade of the sports grounds.

Both the sports grounds, adjacent to the bigger indoor seating venue in the province, and new library will also be enjoyed by the

BEACON OF HOPE ... NMMU's new R38m "green" library at Missionvale Campus will service both its growing student body and the surrounding impoverished community. It opened this month as one of a number of improvements to this campus in the past three years.



adjacent community.

"We have acquired material to assist grade 11 and 12 learners and will work closely with the Faculty of Education," said Missionvale Campus librarian **Omayya Allie**.

She also praised staff for the hard work in transporting 54 000 books from the old library to the new building.

Omayya added that the basement section of the new building had been earmarked for community engage-

ment and that an interactive media classroom was on the cards.

The campus is also establishing a medicinal garden – to tie in with its research and to provide a relaxing en-

vironment for both staff and students.

In short, Missionvale Campus will actively seek to "grow NMMU's growth areas" in response to both local and national needs.

South Campus Library ready

THE long-awaited upgrade of the lighting and air-conditioning in the South Campus Library has been completed. State-of-the-art technology for efficient energy and lighting usage in line with "green" building is now in use after more than a year of renovations.



NEW LIFTS ... South Campus main building users are now being transported more efficiently thanks to the completion of a brand new lift system. The working team behind the improvement (from left) are Projects and Planning Director **Stuart Blignaut**, Engineering Services Deputy Director **Peter Peters**, Acting Operations Director **Gary Paul**, Schindler Lifts' **Kobus Swart** and Aurecon's **Andre Hefer**.

Lifts get efficient lift

SOUTH Campus main building now boasts four new "intelligent" lifts operated by a sophisticated computerised system, to put lift frustrations of the past behind it.

The sudden jerking stops that caused many a traveller to feel nauseous are a thing of the past.

The new lifts are more efficient and responsive.

They also slow down when departing or reaching their destination.

The R8m lifts are especially efficient in energy usage and emergency situations. Security can control the car exclusively by commands from within the car and emergency

services can "call" a lift to quickly respond to an emergency instead of just waiting in the normal queue.

The intelligent system also records moving patterns within the building and the lifts will go into standby mode in close proximity to busy floors instead of waiting on ground floor to be called upwards the whole time.

"We are very grateful to staff in the building who experienced extreme frustration while the new system was being installed. We are sure the long wait has been worth your while", project leader **Stuart Blignaut** told talk@nmmu.

Dean of Law part of musical family

Singing a very different tune

IF MUSIC be the food of love, then the Lawack family of Port Elizabeth is pretty well-nourished since each member is fed by a different instrument.

On 8 August they brought all their talent together to join other choristers and musicians at the annual festival of the Moravian Church Choir Union of South Africa (Mocusa) at the Feather Market Centre.

Dad Jonathan directed, Mum Olga sang, eldest son Antonio played both the organ and conducted, and daughter, **Vivienne**, sang.

"While growing up at home (in Clarkson and PE), we had our own choir so I suppose this was something of a reunion," says Vivienne.

According to Prof Lawack-Davids her father has been in the Moravian Church Choir Union for more than 30 years. He is now the choir's

president. Apart from singing, he also composes music and along with her mother, was instrumental in inspiring the Lawack offspring to develop a deep love of music.

One cannot sing and be angry or depressed. If only more people sang. There would be less disharmony and conflict!

Her brother Antonio - "the musical genius" - has BMus and MMus (*cum laude*) degrees from NMMU and is an organist who now runs the music department at Linksie High School.

"In addition to co-composing with my dad, he is a prolific composer and is in the process of compiling a collection of his songs," says Prof Lawack, adding that at her grandmother's funeral they had sung a funeral song, *Saalge Rus*, composed by Antonio with lyrics by her father.

Antonio also plays the euphonium



SOUND OF MUSIC ... Executive Dean of Law Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids joined her family, (back from left) mother Olga, father Jonathan and brother Antonio (front) to perform in the recent annual festival of the Moravian Choir Union of South Africa.

and is director of the Pro Christo Male Voice choir, an inter-denominational male voice choir. He also has a school choir and ensemble.

The real brassy sounds however come from Marvin, the youngest member of the Lawack family, who plays the trombone. He is a diplomatic officer at the Department of International Relations and Co-operation in Pretoria and an NMMU alumnus.

Prof Lawack-Davids played the piano until Grade 11, but now focuses on her singing, like her mother who is also an alto in the choir.

She believes that singing not only teaches you discipline, but improves life in general.

"One cannot sing and be angry or depressed. If only more people sang. There would be less disharmony and conflict!"



REACHING TARGET MARKET... Marketing and Corporate Relations' Ntosh Gwaqa (centre) and assistant Ntsigo Gwaqa (right) share information with a learner at the Motherwell Shopping Centre as part of a closing date awareness campaign to encourage prospective students to apply by 2 August. Ntosh also hosted a stall at Ziyabuya Shopping Centre, as part of a new drive to include township malls in NMMU marketing campaigns.

Popular closing date campaign

NMMU's Marketing and Corporate Relations Department moved up a gear in July with its "call to action" closing date campaign.

Apart from the usual radio jingles, newspaper advertisements and bus backs, the team held a large number of exhibitions encouraging prospective students to study at NMMU at shop-

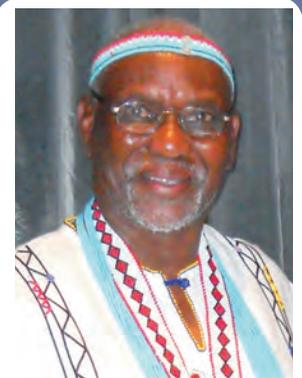
ping centres in East London, Mthatha, Uitenhage, George and at Greenacres and Cleary Park in PE.

This followed NMMU's participation in several career exhibitions in Dutywa, Lusikisi, KwaNobuhle, Johannesburg and Fort Beaufort.

This was over and above the usual school visits, public information ses-

sions, and displays in all public libraries in the metropole and George.

Parents and learners were particularly interested in engineering, nursing science, education, accounting, quantity surveying, building studies, computer science, IT, marketing, radiography, PR, marine biology, psychology, journalism and pharmacy.



FAREWELL ... The NMMU Trust recently said goodbye to Trustee Cumngce Gawe who joined the Trust in 2005. Mr Gawe, who still serves as Deputy Chair of the NMMU Council, has a long history with the institution, serving on the former UPE's Centre for Continuing Education governing body since 1986 and also the PE Technikon Council. Mr Gawe was presented with a beaded necklace worn by important and prominent elderly men in the Xhosa culture.

Humansdorp school produces two winners Designs for the future

HUMANSDORP'S Nico Malan High School must be doing something right. It recently produced two winners in a top engineering design competition at NMMU.

Grade 12 pupil Gregory Franck won the School of Engineering's Grade 12 Design Competition and R10 000, while his classmate, Fourie van der Westhuizen, won the "Best Report Submitted" category.

Second place went to Thabo Swanepoel, of Point High School in Mossel Bay, who took five months to prepare his entry.

These candidates each received a full two-year tuition bursary to study

an engineering qualification of their choice at NMMU, as well as R2 000 in sponsorship from the VWSA-DAAD Chair in Automotive Engineering.

This competition showcases the design talents of selected learners in the Eastern and South Western Cape region.

According to project manager **Howard Theunissen** technical accuracy of reports and design drawings is vital to the success of these projects.

Learners were asked to design and build a vehicle that would travel the distance of a 2m track, touch the wall at the end of the track, and return back down the track breaking the

plane of the original starting line.

"NMMU aims to develop young engineers and prepare learners for the challenges associated in the working world of today," said Howard, adding that the school had received much positive feedback.

"The competition taught me a great deal about AutoCAD and gave me hands-on practical experience about what I can expect in this type of field," said Bryden Armstrong, a Grade 12 learner from Selborne College in East London.

It is hoped the competition will become an annual event with wider impact among potential engineers.



*FUTURE ENGINEERS ... Engineering School Grade 12 Design Competition winners Gregory Franck (back centre), who was the overall winner, with Fourie van der Westhuizen (front left), who submitted the best report, and Thabo Swanepoel celebrated their success with staff (back left) lecturer **Karl du Preez**, and project manager **Howard Theunissen**.*

Briefs

Energy management

INDUSTRY and commerce benefited from real case studies of energy and water management at a workshop presented by our VWSA-DAAD International Chair in Automotive Engineering in conjunction with the South African Institute for Electrical Engineers and the Port Elizabeth Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry from 2 to 6 August.

Keynote speaker

SCHOOL of ICT's **Prof Darelle van Greunen** was a keynote speaker at the 6th Annual International Conference on Computing and ICT Research at Makerere University in Uganda.

The conference provided an international forum for researchers and practitioners to present and discuss research and practices in computing and information and communication technology.

Energy scholarship

THIRD-year Mechatronics Engineering student Allan van den Berg is one of three students to receive a bursary valued at R15 000 from the South African Association for Energy Efficiency (SAEE) to further his studies in the fields of engineering, built environment and environmental studies.

Allan is also head of the AIESEC Marketing Portfolio and Vice-president of AIESEC NMMU. He was the best first-year student in Mechatronics and represented NMMU at the national Robotics World Skills Competition.

Laptop support

THIRD-year Information Technology student Stephen Ncube who was seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident and had all his personal items stolen, received a replacement laptop.

Shane Futch of Johnson Control International donated the laptop to enable Stephen to continue his studies as part of a special community project.

Automotive career experience

SOME 28 learners from 16 schools attended an annual two-week winter school programme presented by the Mechanical Engineering Department during the holidays as part of the Automotive Experiential Career Development Programme (AECDP).

The programme created by the Automotive Industry Development Centre (AIDC) is supported financially by the Nelson

Mandela Bay Municipality's (NMBM).

Learners received mentoring and guidance, exposure to numerous engineering principles, including AutoCAD, computer technology and intensive maths development and visited large engineering companies.

The learners also visited Volkswagen South Africa's new Polo plant and spent interactive time at the VW Autopavilion.

NMBM Executive Direc-

tor; Economic Development and Recreational Services Zolile Siswana said the Metro's Executive Mayor Zanoloxo Wayile has set aside a further R15 million towards building skills in the metro.

The AIDC awarded prizes to second-year Mechanical Engineering student Masixole Jarom (the best peer helper chosen by the learners), Felix Chimbinyu of Vulumzi Secondary School (learner who showed the best leadership qualities

in the group), Siphokazi Mzini of Khwezi Lomso Secondary School (best team player) and the top achiever Kim Perring of Bethelsdorp Comprehensive School, who obtained the highest marks from an average of all her marks combined.

AIDC General Manager Estelle Gathercole thanked the NMBM for their continued support over the six years that the programme has been running.

Prestigious honour for NMMU women scientists



Marietjie Landman

TWO academics in the Department of Zoology have been selected as finalists in the Women in Science Awards.

Dr Kwezi Mzilikazi has been selected in the category "Emerging Woman Scientist" and **Marietjie**

Landman in the "PhD Fellowship" category.

Dr Mzilikazi, the 2006 winner of the top Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, is Africa's first black evolutionary physiologist and is an expert in the behaviour of and physiology of

small animals. Her colleague, Marietjie, who spends much of her time at Addo National Elephant Park, is doing her PhD on elephants under the supervision of **Prof Graham Kerley**. The two will attend a gala event at which the various winners will be announced.



Dr Kwezi Mzilikazi

Top scientists entice learners with activities to study at NMMU Science Week a huge success

MAKING science fun will pay dividends.

That's the thinking behind Science Discovery Week which was successfully hosted by the Faculty of Science during the mid-year recess in a bid to attract quality learners to its programmes.

Altogether 81 Grade 12 learners from 36 schools in the metro attended the week from 21 to 25 June.

"Learners are given the opportunity to experience some of the excitement and passion of science through a variety of interesting activities," Dean of Science **Prof Andrew Leitch** told talk@nmmu.

They are introduced to disciplines not covered at school, such as statistics, geology, biochemistry and applied maths.

Furthermore, since many of the learners do not have adequate facilities or equipment to run science experiments, Science Week gives them the opportunity to carry out experiments and other activities that they have not been able to do before.

The programme included a lecture on astronomy titled "Secrets of the night sky" by physicist **Jacques**

O'Connell, and a talk by zoologist **Prof Graham Kerley** focusing on elephant management and science.

Learners revelled in the chemistry demonstration – especially those sitting in the front row!

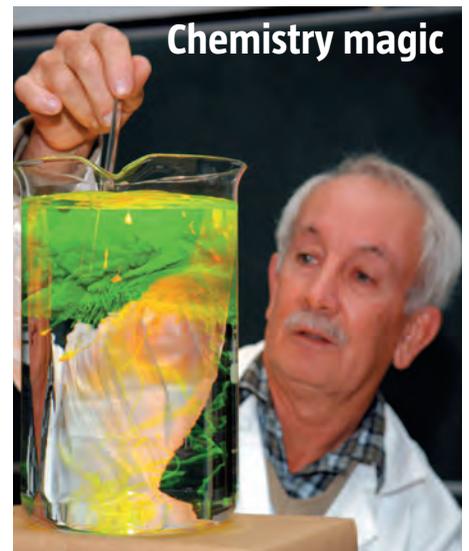
World famous botanist **Prof Richard Cowling** gave a thought-provoking lecture on the need for us to address "wicked problems", such as climate change, currently plaguing the world.

During each day more specialised activities in biochemistry, statistics, computer science and other subjects were enjoyed in smaller groups.

The Grysbok Hiking Trail on South Campus proved to be a favourite.

"We hope the week will have influenced learners to make NMMU their institution of first choice for studying science, and that the activities will have assisted them to decide on possible subject choices.

"I am ecstatic by the response of the learners. Science Discovery Week clearly serves a real need and must be expanded further in the future," said Prof Leitch.



Chemistry magic

*CHEMISTRY MAGIC ... Magician and Chemistry laboratory technician **Harold Marchand** excited Science Discovery Week learners by showing them experiments they had never seen before*



SCIENCE BOFFINS ... Mintek representative **Sello Tsebe** (centre) joins Minquix Port Elizabeth area winners (from left) **Mqubule Mangaliso** of Nathaniel Nyaluza School, **Siphokazi Nyusela** of Lungisa Senior Secondary School, **Philip Zoetmulder** of St Dominic's Priory High School and **Prinola Govindasamy** of Alexander Road High School, all of whom will be competing at the national competition in September in Johannesburg. The annual quiz, with some 160 participants from 40 schools, is organised by our Computing Sciences Department in a bid to encourage an interest in careers in science, engineering and technology and emphasise the importance of minerals and metallurgy in South Africa. The top three schools in the platinum category were Collegiate Girls, St Dominic's Priory and DF Malherbe and in the gold category, Nathaniel Nyaluza, Solomon Mahlangu and Newell High.

Boost for elephant ecology research

RESEARCH on the impact of the elephant population on the biodiversity of the Addo Elephant National Park has been supported by R55 000 from the not-for-profit Amarula Trust, which supports community upliftment and conservation programmes.

The elephant ecology and biology research and training programme involves 12 under- and postgraduate science students and is managed by our Centre for African Conservation.

The students conduct field research and assess herbivore

densities using dung count, they establish the impact of elephants on landscape functioning and soil erosion, elephant behaviour in the park, and how to identify individual elephants.

These findings will be used to improve elephant management in the park.

The centre also maintains a photographic and life history database accounting for every elephant within the park, as far back as the 1930s, the longest-spanning record of elephant life history information in the world.

Design student is Elle finalist

BTECH Fashion Design student Este van der Merwe's concept and storyboards on how femininity will be expressed by South African women is about launch her career.

Judges in the Elle magazine fashion contest loved her take on what femininity will look like in the future so much that they awarded her R25 000 and the opportunity to showcase her range at the Elle new talent show at the 2011 South African Fashion Week.

Este is one of seven finalists in this new national competition, which was practically tailor-made for her since her BTEch study is on the "significance of femininity in ladies fashion" and how it might inform ladies fashion for the South African market.

"I'm overjoyed and pleased to be in the finals. For me this competition can be an immense stepping stone to a very adventurous and thrilling career.

"I am looking forward to show everyone my fascination with our country and my obsessive need to create interesting clothes," says Este, 22.

Este had to design a collection of eight garments for women for winter 2010/11 using the positive aspects of South African life and its environ-

ment.

"Instead of obliterating Chanel's influence and the masculinity in female dress today, it is maybe time to enhance it and create womanliness with masculine elements and feminine lines and trims - in the hope that this will show women that clothes can still portray feminine beauty," Este explains in her entry.

Fashion design lecturer **Gina Esterhuizen** says NMMU students have enormous talent and that she is thrilled that Este took the initiative to enter this competition.

... an immense stepping stone to a very adventurous and thrilling career



GARMENTS GET AHEAD... BTEch Fashion Design student Este van der Merwe won a welcome R25 000 to jumpstart her career in fashion and showcase her range at the 2011 SA Fashion Week.



WALL SCRIBBLER ... Second-year Graphic Design student Keith Vlahakis won a prize for his illustrated poster profile developed for an illustration and drawing class in the online Adobe Go Create competition – a palette of selected work created with Adobe products. He received a Loerie Annual edition and DVD worth R700 and his work is now part of the line up for selection at the end of the year. Keith comments: "Graffiti is a revolutionary form of art, our streets have become art galleries and if I was to define my self portrait entitled "Intentional Mischief", I would simply state that no clean wall is safe anymore, but are potential canvases with masterpieces waiting to happen on them ... and my army of loyal spray cans are ready to express themselves."

International accreditation



BIG SMILES ... The academic team responsible for the Diploma Architectural Technology, BTEch Architectural Technology and BTEch Applied Design (front to back) department head **Nicola Darke, Lucy Vosloo, Chanelle Edgar, Johan Pansegrouw, Hansie Vosloo and Heather Fouche** have reason to smile since the Department of Architectural Technology and Interior Design has successfully obtained unconditional national and international accreditation for the next four years from the South African Council for the Architectural Professional, and the Commonwealth Association of Architects (affiliated to the Royal Institute of British Architects) from 14 May.



WORDSMITHS REJOICE ... Bestselling textbook authors (back, from left) Applied Languages' **Jacqui L. ck** and **Eileen Scheckle**, former colleague **Renee van der Merwe**, who now works for the SANTED project, and (front) former colleagues Sally Potgieter, Sandra Cleary and Applied Languages' **Dr Marcelle Harran** celebrated the latest edition of their work. Former colleague Dr Karen van Heerden could not attend.

Bestselling textbook going strong

TWO bestselling textbooks first published in 1999 by current and former NMMU language studies colleagues have been updated with new chapters contributed by former colleagues residing from as far afield as the Middle East.

The Communication Handbook and Communication: A hands on approach (Juta) are prescribed by institutions countrywide and will also be used in Dubai from September, a feather in the cap of Applied Languages' **Jacqui L. ck, Eileen Scheckle** and **Dr Marcelle Harran**.

The retired editor, Sandra Cleary, managed to coordinate new chapters with all colleagues.

The other contributors are Sally Potgieter who is currently lecturing at Middlesex University in Dubai and Dr Karen van Heerden who is deputy registrar at UCT.

The other former colleague is **Renee van der Merwe** who taught in Oman, and is now a research assistant at the SANTED project working on guidelines for diploma and degree studies curricula at comprehensive institutions.

"One of the biggest challenges lay in producing a text for use by speakers with English proficiency levels ranging from mother tongue to second or even third language levels of proficiency," said Sandra.

Staff encouraged to embrace new Value Fridays

Keep flying the flag



IN A BID to keep flying the flag after the euphoria of the Fifa 2010 World Cup, NMMU has reinvented its Football Fridays and replaced them with Values Fridays.

Diversity Fridays are presently being enjoyed in a variety of ways, thanks to the feedback you supplied on SOAPBOX, the university's safe online platform for sharing.

Rather than prescribe how you should recognise and celebrate this particular value, we simply shared the ideas mooted on SOAPBOX and left the choice up to you.

After all, it's about diversity and variety and celebrating our differences.

And so this month, Diversity Month, departments, units, faculties and individuals have, among other ideas, donned their new diversity T-shirts available from the University Shop.

Other ideas include:

- Wearing clothes that celebrate

another culture – with about 7% of our students come from outside South Africa.

- Generational contests e.g. let the Baby Boomer compete in an sms competition by seeing who can text a message the fastest.
- Wear an item of traditional clothing.
- At tea time share information or eats from your particular culture or religion.

Marketing NMMU globally

The PowerPoint capturing NMMU's involvement in the 2010 Fifa World Cup has circled the globe.

And as a result, it is subtly marketing our institution.

The smaller, compact version of NMMU's World Cup keepsake was compiled by Marketing and Corporate Relations in response to your positive feedback.

If you haven't seen the presentation and would like to copy it to send out into cyberspace, you will find it under COMMUNICATIONS – PRESENTATIONS on the staff portal.



We celebrate Ubuntu Fridays from September

SENTINALS ... Marketing and Corporate Relations staff Vuyo Bongela and Bev Erickson are among many staff members who would like NMMU to "keep flying the flag".

Mail box

Jazz musician recognised

Tribute to a colleague, friend, artist and performer: Errol Cuddumbey

- May his precious soul rest in peace
- Thank you to the Almighty for his life
- Touched the lives of the music lovers in very many special ways
- Because of his deep passion for arts and culture
- Life committed and sacrificed for the love of music
- Errol out of call of duty
- Engaging in multi-racial performances
- Renowned for its magical unity
- What a rare species
- Combining western and traditional music
- Errol with instruments
- Instrumental to make the society sing and dance together
- A man of great substance
- A visionary
- A sense of purpose
- Your sense of humour
- Kind heart
- Ubuntu
- Humbleness
- All shall be remembered always
- The life lead to live a legacy
- **Bonga Makrwede**, Library and Information Services

talk@NMMU would like to hear your views on issues affecting your life at our university. Send your letters to: elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za

Many voices, one NMMU

AUGUST is Diversity Month – a month in which the university celebrates its diverse nature through various activities.

The Centre for the Advancement of Non-Racialism and Democracy (CANRAD) has been the driving force organising a fun walk, a debate on youth identity, discussions, a community excursion, a food diversity session, clothing and photo exhibition, talks, dramas, and a student court.

CANRAD also hosted the successful screening of a documentary film

about xenophobia at both its South and Missionvale campuses in late July.

The film *Where do you stand* by Molly Blank was produced in partnership with Shikaya. Each screening was followed by panel discussions.

The theme for the month's activities celebrating NMMU's diversity is "Many voices, one NMMU".

For details of remaining Diversity Month activities please contact CANRAD's **Dr Jay Govender**.



NDIAN CELEBRATIONS ... Library and International Education Office staff (back from left) Nuala Jansen, Bonga Makrwede, Christina Dookran, Dr Nico Jooste, Louana Victor, Jadey Bosman and Natasha September (front) Jennifer Winstead, Monalisa Ndwayana and Anine Swanepoel celebrated 150 years of Indian settlement in South Africa in traditional Indian dress



UPDATED ... The entrance to George Campus now boasts a fully-fledged corporate look with the NMMU logo attached alongside the historic Saasveld name. This serves a dual purpose as the physical address of George Campus is Saasveld Road 1. It is also the historic birthplace of George Campus which has its roots in the erstwhile forestry college at Saasveld.

R200 000 investment in lecturer towards PhD studies

Top international scholarship

BIANCA Currie's hard work over the past four years in the Natural Resource Management School has paid off.

She has been awarded a SANPAD (South Africa-Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development) capacity development grant, funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The programme consists of seven weeks of intensive training towards PhD studies in Cape Town and Johannesburg, all expenses paid.

The investment is estimated at R 200 000 per student. It is described as "tantamount to receiving one of the most valuable scholarships in South Africa".

Candidates are selected on the basis of academic record, age in relation

to their contribution to academia, commitment to regional development and community engagement and team work.

"I have no doubt that this is another step in the direction of a cracking PhD and leading-edge academic career for Bianca," said George Campus Principal, **Prof Christo Fabricius**.

Bianca is sincerely thankful for

... tantamount to receiving one of the most valuable scholarships in South Africa

the scholarship.

"This is a great privilege and opportunity which I am grasping with both hands. I look forward to applying the knowledge gained to the advantage of NMMU, its students and the greater community."



SCHOLARSHIP BOOST ... Natural Resource Management School's Bianca Currie has been awarded a SANPAD capacity development grant for seven weeks of intensive training towards PhD studies.



PROVIDING FOOD ... BTech Nature Conservation students Michelle Whyte (from left) and Carina Becker, with the help of their supervising lecturer, Bianca Currie, have initiated an urban agriculture project involving a vegetable garden and small orchard and a training programme. The programme, which encourages ownership of the garden, gives participants choice of seeds and trees to plant and freedom in their layout. Training sessions include planning and composting, bed preparation, planting and care and harvesting. An illustrated handbook with step-by-step instructions is also in the pipe line. The students are working in collaboration with Men on the Side of the Road (MSR) - a non-profit organisation represented here by Mlungisi Goba (right). MSR assists the unemployed with a formal structure to seek work and skills training.



NEWCOMER ... Agricultural Management team members (left) Johan Jordaan and Maryna Lehmann-Maritz (right) and Natural Resource Management School Director Dr Josua Louw (back, right) welcomed newly-appointed lecturer Prof Victor Mmbengwa (centre).

Briefs

International perspective

ACCOUNTING students started the semester with an "international perspective", thanks to German guest lecturer Prof Dr Carsten Berkau of the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences.

Prof Dr Berkau, who specialises in accounting and controlling, will be lecturing at George Campus for the next three months. He is a former dean and has published a number of books.

Closing campaign

PROSPECTIVE students were recently encouraged to "Unleash their potential" and apply to study at NMMU.

The closing date awareness campaign was run via exhibitions at the Garden Route Mall, the George Public Library, the printed media, radio advertisements and a three-hour outdoor broadcast in partnership with Eden FM and at four public information evenings.

Accreditation

GEORGE BCom programme coordinator and senior lecturer **Pieter Wicht** has been registered with the authoritative Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA) after a stringent accreditation process.

The IRBA is the statutory body that controls public accountancy in South Africa.

Gr 12 winter school

NMMU George Campus was abuzz with young voices during the recent winter holidays when more than 120 Grade 12 learners from the local Thembaletu High School used the campus facilities for a three-day winter school.

The programme provided extra classes in English, along with input from NMMU Marketing and Corporate Relations, Student Development, and Governance Services staff

New education chair in HIV/Aids

NMMU has South Africa's first HIV/Aids Chair in Education.

Professor Naydene de Lange, who is responsible for a number of key research projects both in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, will run the chair and further extend arts-based research to tackle the spread of HIV/Aids in South African schools and communities.

Prof De Lange, who has an educational psychology background and is a National Research Foundation-rated researcher, is pioneering visual participatory methodology,

whereby participants in research engage with issues relating to HIV/Aids by taking photographs or making videos.

"It gives people a voice, an artifact over which they can engage in debate.

"We believe that this kind of 'research as social change' is necessary in South Africa," said Prof De Lange, who joins the university from the University of Kwazulu-Natal.

NMMU is in line for another new research chair, expected to be officially announced late in September.



Briefs

London research

The London-based newspaper for South Africans, *The South African*, has placed an article in their newspaper and website on Business Management's **Chantal Rootman's** research study.

The article invites citizens there to participate in a banking services survey.

Media management

SOCIAL media not only assists in communication but can also aid talent and knowledge management, learning and crowd sourcing, HR Future Magazine editor Alan Hosking told a recent Business School's HR stakeholders' breakfast.

Hosking emphasised the importance of social media for the 20 to 28 years age group.

Guest lecturer

THE School of Management Sciences is hosting guest lecturer and researcher **Todd Davey** (right) of Münster University of Applied Sciences, Germany, for the next two months. He is in South Africa to complete a research paper with Management Sciences' **Prof Miemie Struwig**.



Former PE man shares Asian business insights

IF YOU want to do business in China, you had better accept their culture.

This was just one of the many insights shared by Coca-Cola Bottling Investment Group's CEO for China, Malaysia and Singapore **Martin Jansen** at a function organised by the Business School in conjunction with the Port Elizabeth Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Percci) and The Ukuvula Foundation.

"It's not only the laws and regulations that you need to be accepted, but the culture too," the former Port Elizabeth businessman who has spent the past three years in China.

According to Jansen, China, with its

When in China...

present population of 1.3 billion, is soon expected to overtake Japan as the second largest global economy.

Furthermore, research shows that the GDP of China is likely to be the world's largest by 2020.

"Businesses are developing at a fast rate with 1.5 KFC fast food outlets opening daily," said Jansen at IQrad Place on 29 June.

The country was home to the world's six busiest ports.

The Chinese believe in building relationships and maintaining them

"The Chinese believe in building relationships and maintaining them.

Also, you will need to adopt your business strategies to their needs."

Jansen said that although global companies did make mistakes when entering the Chinese market, the "biggest mistake of all is not being there at all".



SUCCESS STORIES... Top students in the various management programmes at NMMU included (back from left) **Cedrick Meyer**, **Charles Grigor** (Justice & Constitutional Development), **Ryan Deacon** (BASF), and **Charné Gardiner** (AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals), (front) **Zukiswa Ndilele** (Department of Agriculture), **Sharon-Lee Wasserman** (Dorbyl Magnosto Wheels), **Patrick Vani** (Freeworld Automotive Coatings) and **Razaan Morley** (Sechaba Medical Solutions). Almost 100 learners received diplomas and certificates at a ceremony on the South Campus in June. The programmes are aimed at specific needs of business, industry and government, enhancing interpersonal, leadership and management skills for optimal productivity and efficiency. Registrations are open throughout the year.

Consumer rights to protection

THE Law Faculty is meeting society's needs by providing practical workshops for concerned parties as with its recent seminar on the Consumer Protection Act.

Joining hands with the Eastern Cape's Department of Finance, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, the Law Faculty shared its expertise in unpacking the implications of the new act.

It did so with the likes of the department's MEC **Mcebisi Jonas**.

"Consumer rights are central to economic development. The negative impact on a system that is not protected eventually kills consumption in general," **Jonas** told businessmen at the day-long seminar.

Community radio show

NMMU's Business Service Unit will discuss the importance of business development in the former Transkei and Ciskei in a regular slot on UniTrans Radio station.

The show, broadcast in isiXhosa, will be hosted by the Business School's **Pamela Mahuwa**.

First graduates

THE first group of 24 employees from the Eden District Municipality graduated from the Integrative Transformational Leadership Development Programme based on African principles presented by our Business School at George Campus.



FAREWELL TO COLLEAGUES ... It very seldom happens that a manager receives resignations from his whole team on the same day, but our Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** (centre) had to face this problem a while ago. Both assistants **Lungi Nomtayi** (left) and **Natalie Wessels** (right) resigned on the same day without knowing of one another's intentions. Natalie has been with NMMU and the former UPE since 1992, working for four Vice-Chancellors. Lungi has been with Student Affairs for a number of years and joined the VC's office end of last year. Natalie has since left the country to join her daughter in Australia and Lungi will be leaving for East London soon to join her mother. We wish them good luck.



POLICY EXPERT ... Institutional Planning and Development Senior Director **Professor Martin Oosthuizen** (second from left) was recently invited by the Namibian National Council on Higher Education (NCHE) to present a workshop on Higher Education Policy Development for Namibia. He is joined by (from left) NCHE Research & Publications Committee Chairperson Prof Andre du Pisani, NCHE Chairperson Dr Zedekia Ngavirue and NCHE Executive Director Mocks Shivute.



CELEBRATING ... Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology held a braai on 11 June to celebrate the start of the World Cup with (back, from left) **Mary-Ann Snyder**, **Dr Franco Geminiani**, Prof Scott Fee of Minnesota State University (USA) and Dean **Prof Henk de Jager**, with (front) **Meera Parshotam** and **Bronwyn Moodaley**.



KNOWLEDGE BUSINESS ... Library and Information Services Director **Robert Pearce** (right) represented NMMU at an International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Presidential meeting held together with the Stellenbosch symposium. The symposium theme was "Knowing is not enough: engaging in the knowledge economy". The federation is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. Robert is joined by Stellenbosch University Vice-Chancellor Professor Russel Botman.



NEW XHOSA SPEAKERS ... Eleven colleagues, as well as four staff members from the Cerebral Palsy Association (CPA), recently attended a nine-week conversational Xhosa class presented by Applied Languages lecturer **Dr Ruby Zauka** (back, second from left). Colleagues said they found the course very interesting and hope that they can soon enrol for a follow-up course. They say they are now able to pick up bits and pieces and key words in conversations. They also felt that it was a good way to get to know other staff members. Lecturers want to better understand their students while some other indigenous African language speakers wanted to learn Xhosa. Back, from left, **Lyndall Sa Joe-Derrock**s (Marketing and Corporate Relations), Johanna Deysel (CPA), **Mandie Muller** (Academic Admin) and Helena van der Ham and Shane Clark from CPA, (middle) **Marilyn Gibbs** (Science and Technology Education), **Riaan Osman** (Sport), Alicia Deysel (CPA), **Tracy Ebel** (Technical Services) and **Quanita Daud** (Marketing and Corporate Relations), (front) **Elana Storm** (Horticultural Services) and visitor Keelan Ebel.



BEST Statistics and Mathematical Statistics students are annually acknowledged at a prize-giving function to encourage them in their studies. This year the recipients were second-year students **David Gate** (right) and **Farai Mlambo**, and third-year students **Edson Revesai** (left) and **Michaela Beckley** for 2009.



MANDALAS FOR MANDELA ... Brand manager **Vuyo Bongela** and public relations management student **Genevieve Civico** were delighted to receive mandala artwork donated to NMMU from Bay artist Anthony Harris to celebrate its namesake's 92nd birthday. The mandala is a Sanskrit word for circle in religious art, and is used to symbolise wholeness and the circle of eternity.



INTERNATIONAL EXPERTISE ... FIFA Development Director Urs Kluser (left) and Centre for International Sport Studies CIES president Bertrand Reeb (second right) were welcomed to NMMU for a week-long second FIFA/CIES University Network Seminar by our Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** and Human Movement Science Department Head **Prof Rosa du Randt**. Altogether 75 delegates from 14 countries involved in the Fifa sport manager development programme were in Nelson Mandela Bay for the event and also attended the quarter final match between Brazil and Holland.

Future Leaders Programme invests in staff

SCREENING of the first applicants to benefit from the new Future Leaders Programme is under way.

Almost R900 000 will be invested in the programme in 2010 aimed at creating a pool of high-performing, talented individuals at NMMU.

"The Future Leaders Programme is just one element of a broader talent management strategy for

NMMU," said Human Resources' **Brett Botha**, who along with acting Executive Director: Operations **Gary Paul**, has been dealing directly with one of the country's leading strategists in this field, Willem Conradie.

"In short, we want to invest in our staff – in our own people."

More than 30 staff members have applied to be a part of the intensive

training of the Future Leaders Programme (FLP), but only eight will be selected for the programme which lasts almost two years.

According to Brett, the applicants from both academic and professional staff members will go through various psychometric and other tests before the final group is interviewed by the Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Derrick**

Swartz, his two deputies and Gary Paul.

Though the training will be mostly generic, such as the 18 months spent in studying part-time at the Business School, training would be adapted to the needs of individuals.

"The psychometric testing will show us where to invest our time and knowledge."

SERVICE and Sipho Sam are synonymous. When you think of this key Centre for Teaching, Learning and Media (CTLM) employee the image that comes to mind is that of a warm, friendly and smiling man who is always willing to help.

What few people know, however, is that Sipho, who has been within NMMU since 1984, is that he is a cancer survivor. And that his positive outlook on life has done much to help in his recovery process since he is now in remission.

Now he wants others to benefit from his experiences.

Sipho took ill in November last year when he suffered severe pain in the area of his spleen.

"I noticed in the week preceding my admission to hospital that I was sweating more than usual and my skin was itching for no apparent reason. On the day I got sick, I just went blank, was short of breath and turned pale," recalls Sipho.

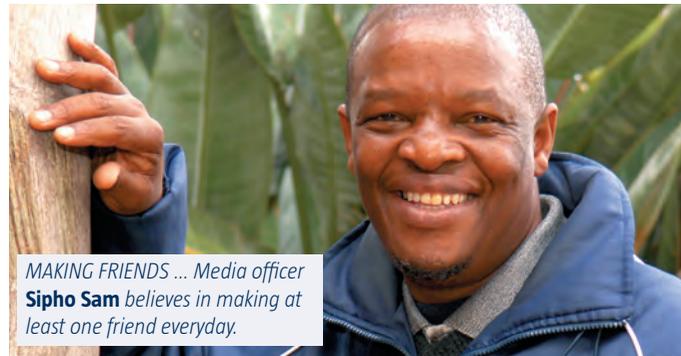
After a number of tests at Greenacres Hospital, the university's popular media officer was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer.

"When the doctor told me he would organise a counsellor for me, I wondered why it was necessary. When I was told that I had cancer, I immediately thought I was going to die."

The specialist drew up a recovery plan for Sipho. It included sessions with a counsellor as well as chemotherapy. "I did not lose my hair and I only got sick once after chemo," he says with a smile.

Popular media colleague shares experience

Service with a smile



MAKING FRIENDS ... Media officer Sipho Sam believes in making at least one friend everyday.

He started with the chemotherapy in December last year and went for three days each month for four months. After the last chemotherapy session, a marrow biopsy was done to ascertain the state of his condition. "The biopsy was very painful since anaesthetic was not used because of the effect it might have had on the results."

Today Sipho is in remission and only has to see the doctor bi-monthly.

"I could not have pulled through without my wife, Nosipho, and our kids, Lwando, 19, and Simamkele, 22, as well as my colleagues and friends."

The experience has motivated him to start a cancer support group to help other staff members who have been diagnosed with cancer (see adjacent story).

"I believe that I was healed by telling people I had cancer. Not because I wanted people to feel sorry for me,

but that I acknowledged that I was not well and I knew I'd get through it with their support."

He has another health secret too – to make at least one new friend every day.

Support group

IF YOU would like to be part of a cancer support group at NMMU or have ideas to share, please e-mail sipho.sam@nmmu.ac.za or call him on extension 2135.

The aim of the group is to show how cancer sufferers and survivors can help each other, how we can assist families who are affected by our illness simply by sharing experiences and other important information.

You can win

LUCKY readers can win two R100 Greenacres Shopping Centre vouchers and two R100 University Shop vouchers. Just read your talk@nmmu!

Congratulations to our **June/July** competition winners: **Juanita Botha** of Financial Aid, **Aamena Vawda** of Centre for Extended Studies, and **Beryl Leeuw** and **Sandra Roux**, both of Finance.

Answer the following questions (from articles in this edition):

- 1. The Department of Higher Education and Training national priority growth areas include engineering and e.....n (9 letter word).**
- 2. According to national guidelines staff and students will be able to receive a.....l (14 letter word) treatment at the on-campus clinics.**
- 3. At a cost of R8 million, the lifts are especially efficient in energy usage and emergency (9 letter word) situations.**

Correct answers, along with your name, surname, staff number, department and telephone number, can be e-mailed to elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za by **23 August**

Schuinville Pharmacy in Newton Park charges no additional fees, fax fees, telephone fees or delivery fees for chronic medication to members. Tel: 041 3642109 or George Campus - Pacaltsdorp Pharmacy: Tel: 044 878 1707.

Rules ► Only NMMU employees may take part in this competition. ► Only e-mail entries qualify for this competition. ► Staff who do not have access to e-mail may ask a colleague to submit their entry – just include the correct name, department and phone number of the person entering the competition. ► Your full details must appear on the e-mail entry. ► Only one entry per person is allowed. ► The judges' decision is final.

Condolences

The university staff and students extend their condolences the family and friends of retired former PE Technikon Head of the Campus Health Unit and the HIV/Aids Unit, **Professor Cobus Zeelie**, who passed away recently, and to Dean of Science **Prof Andrew Leitch**, whose father passed away recently.

NMMU praised for listening to disabled students Success despite disability

FIRST-YEAR IT Support Services student Andrew Manona, 22, who has muscular dystrophy, is a familiar face on campus.

Andrew started off with his first love - Music Education - but he could not master a musical instrument due to his disability.

"Muscular dystrophy is a condition where there are no enzymes to regenerate muscles. Your muscles deteriorate as you grow," he explains.

Although he is a wheelchair-user he says there are still many things he can do for himself.

Andrew remained motivated and turned to his second love, computers, and worked out a way that he can combine the two.

"When I'm finished with IT Services, I want to create music software, earn money and study further in music, even doing my masters in music in Italy. This has always been my dream," he says.

Andrew is very positive about NMMU's contribution to students with disabilities.

"Lecturers are still getting used to having students with disabilities in their lecture halls, but NMMU is growing and I want to play a role in the university's continuous transformation."

He praises our Disability Office for involving students with disabilities when making decisions regarding accessibility as with, for example, the height of ramps.

Andrew is adamant about not giving up.

"I feel that getting angry is time wasting. Instead of looking at the challenge and how big it is, I look for the solution. If I want something I always get it, because I'm patient. If it takes me three years to get somewhere, I will still get there. If there is



PATIENT ACHIEVER ... In spite of his disability, first-year IT Support Service student Andrew Manona has managed to turn around his dreams with patience and perseverance.

no ramp, I look for someone to carry me."

Andrew is also actively involved in the Fusion and Film Society. The society creates interaction between able-bodied and disabled persons.

"NMMU has made September Disability Awareness Month and dur-

ing this month Fusion initiates movie nights that include people with disabilities in the movie. Everybody is invited and discussions will be held afterwards," he says. - **Jennilee Peremore**

Read more about our support for Casual Day.

Casual Day celebrations

THE national Casual Day fundraising for persons with disabilities takes place on Friday 3 September and NMMU will once again support local charities.

Stickers will be available at R10 each at our cashiers for departments to buy and support Cheshire Homes, the Cerebral Palsy Association and PE Mental Health.

The theme is "Dress for laughs – Wear your frown upside down and show off your Casual Day sticker".



Briefs

FIFA congratulate

FIFA TV and Host Broadcasting Services (HBS) recently congratulated 21 NMMU interns at a ceremony at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium on their role in the success of the World Cup 2010.

These students sourced by our Office for International Education were among 330 students in the nine host cities around the country to work for FIFA as part of its broadcast legacy programme.

"The interns were an integral part of the FIFA World Cup production. We hope this experience has provided them with a solid foundation for a successful future in broadcasting," FIFA TV director Niclas Ericson said.

How2 Buddy

ENGINEERING, the Built Environment and IT student and

How2 Buddy Siyanda Magela (right) was one of dozens of students in the programme to



receive a certificate at a ceremony attended by VC **Prof Derrick Swartz** and other staff.

How2 Buddies not only assist first-year students adjust to university in the first-year orientation programme, but receive a huge spin-off in leadership development.

Recycling computers

ICT Services is recycling NMMU's "old" computers as part of its bit to "go green".

Old computers are sold to a company which recycles them back into the market or crushes them for the production of fence poles and the like.

All the hard drives are cleared before the computers leave NMMU's premises.

"ICT workshops are also regularly cleaned of old equipment following the same route," says Deputy Director: ICT Service Delivery **Allison Moller**.

DEPUTY Environment Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi wants to emphasise to schools and universities the link between protection of the oceans, fisheries, tourism, job creation and putting food on the table.

Minister Mabudafhasi addressed a number of learners from Sakhisizwe High School in Zwide at the World

Saving our oceans

Oceans Day event on the South Campus on 8 June.

The United Nations' theme for this year was Our Oceans: Opportunities and Challenges.

Learners were invited as part of the

government's initiative to recruit more young marine scientists.

The interaction of climate change, erosion, environmental protection and development projects were topics discussed at the event.

National success for sport

OUR sportsmen and women did NMMU proud over the June holidays by winning nationally in surfing, cricket and netball.

Furthermore, weightlifting champion Mona Pretorius and netball player Zanele Mdozana have been selected to participate in the Commonwealth Games in October in New Delhi, India.

Our successes:

► Our surfers finished first among the six participating universities in the annual SA University Surfing Championships hosted by our George Campus at Victoria Bay in June.

Clinton Gravett, Gary Muller and Kyle Jacobs also took the first, third and fourth place in the individual category and were all selected as members of the USSA team, along with Bradley Beck.

The second and third team positions were taken by Capetonian universities, UCT and Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Our women's team finished third, behind UCT and Stellenbosch respectively. The other participants were Rhodes and Kwazulu-Natal.

George Campus's Sport Bureau's **Hugo Loubser** said the annual championships are presented under the auspices of University Sport SA which is affiliated to the SA Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee and sanctioned by Surfing SA.



SURF'S UP ... NMMU surfers (from left) Clinton Gravett, Bruce Campbell, Gary Muller, Jacques du Plooy, Bradley Beck, Josh Saunders, Kyle Jacobs and Justin Grey at Victoria Bay, outside George, where they won the SA Universities Surfing Championship.



Warrick Fynn

► The Toshiba NMMU Cricket Club, the number one ranked university and club team in the country, received two awards at a Cricket South Africa (CSA) Awards breakfast held in Johannesburg recently.

Warrick Fynn was named the CSA Club Championships Player of the Tournament and **Pite van Biljon** received the CSA Student Cricketer of the Year Award.

Van Biljon, the captain of the NMMU first team, is currently overseas and returns at the end of August.

The club is now reaping the rewards for the 2009/2010 season where they were victorious in both the National Club Cricket and University Championships in 2009.



Pite van Biljon

► The Spar NMMU netball team was recently crowned the second best student netball team in South Africa, with Dumisane Chauke receiving the trophy for the Best Shooter at a tournament held recently at Sun City.

The team won the silver medal in the student section and came third overall.

Dumisane, Nontle Gwavu, Mampho Tsotetsi and Janine Daniell were selected to represent the SA National Students Team to the Confederation of Universities and Colleges Sports Association (CUCSA) games in Botswana returning with the gold medal.

Sport Bureau's **Zanele Mdo-**



Zanele Mdozana

dana recently represented South Africa on a tour to New Zealand and Samoa and is the only player from NMMU and the city to be included in the Commonwealth netball team.

► ABSA Bank has invested a substantial sponsorship in NMMU hockey, soccer, athletics and the Learn-to-Swim programme.

Sport Bureau Director **Dr Richard Stretch** said: "We are delighted that ABSA has agreed to invest in these sport codes."

Triversity

It's happening here! Watch NMMU, Rhodes and Fort Hare compete at South Campus on 21 August.



*67 MINUTES ... In recognition of Nelson Mandela Day, the Toshiba NMMU cricket team visited Triomf Primary School in Salsoneville to spend time coaching 16 mini-cricket boys, who also received a gift pack. "This is the start of many more initiatives to be undertaken by our club," said the side's manager, **Riaan Osman**. "It is important for our cricketers to transfer the skills and knowledge gained at the university by engaging with our disadvantaged communities and there's no better way to do this than through sport. It's about having fun."*



CHAMPION ... MECER NMMU Elite cycling team's development among school cyclists is paying off as club chairperson Conrad Viljoen (right) congratulates team member 15-year-old Kellan Gouveris (left), who was recently crowned as the SA U/16 Road en Criterium champion in all disciplines in South Africa! Kellan also won the U/16 section in the Eastern Province cycling championship recently hosted by former PE mayor John Viera, where NMMU's Marinus Prinsloo won the junior title.